

in the case of *clavum*; the distal lobe of the valve is more strongly serrated in *thero*, from Melkbosch Strand.

The ♂ genitalia of *Ph. thero* have been figured by Monsieur Stempffer—Stempffer, H., 1967. Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.), Suppl. 10. p. 172, fig. 154.

This striking Lycaenid is named with pleasure after my friend Mr. N. A. Brauer who, after very long experience of the butterflies of the Western Cape, was able to pay special attention in more recent years to those of the Queenstown district.

Mr. Brauer, in a letter to me, has stated:—"This insect occurs locally in the Queenstown, Whittlesea, Tylden, Tarkastad and Cradock areas. As observed by Clive Quickelberge, its range of flight is never far from a species of dull-green "Taaibos" or *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae) growing in the above-mentioned areas; and this is known to be its food-plant. Males perch high up on these tall shrubs and chase rival males from one shrub to another. Females are very much scarcer than the males and are usually found on the lower branches of the shrubs. In both the Queenstown and Cradock areas I have observed females some distance from these shrubs. Both males and females are difficult to find after the sun has reached its zenith. In Queenstown the peak of the insect's emergence from the pupa appears to be reached in November, although specimens have been found on the wing from October to April."

Mr. G. E. Tite has very obligingly read the manuscript of this paper before its publication; Mr. C. D. Quickelberge has kindly loaned specimens for study; and Dr. L. Vári has given the writer access to the Transvaal Museum specimens of this insect for inclusion in the type-material.

"Blencathra," Cambridge Avenue, St. Michaels' Estate, Cape Town.

## Notes on *Adela cuprella* Thunberg

By S. WAKELY

On the 27th April 1968, the British Entomological and Natural History Society held a field meeting at Chobham Common, Surrey. During a break for lunch some of the insects taken during the morning were being passed round for inspection and among these was a fine specimen of *Adela cuprella*. It had been taken from sallow by Mr. P. J. Chandler, a dipterist, who was kind enough to pass it on to Mr. R. Uffen. None of the microlepidopterists present, including myself, had ever taken this species previously and after lunch Col. Emmet, Raymond Uffen and I made our way to the particular sallow trees described by the captor and tried by beating the branches to dislodge others that might be present. Unfortunately it started to rain but Col. Emmet managed to take several. I gave up as the rain got worse and the ground was very swampy.

On reaching home that evening I phoned Mr. Richard Fairclough to tell him the news and he suggested a return trip the following day. Accordingly we went there and this time the weather was more kind and the sun shone most of the time we were collecting. Richard had brought his son Alan with him and his keen eyesight materially assisted in the capture of about thirty specimens. Most of the sallows were past their prime as regards their catkins' attractant powers to insects, but occasionally a tree was found with hosts of bees and diptera present enjoying the

nectar from the catkins. We soon discovered that these were the bushes where *cuprella* were to be seen, often several at a time, in a kind of dance over the twigs with an occasional rest on a leaf. Owing to the height of the trees we had to tie a net to a longer stick and in this way on one occasion three were captured in the net at the same time. During a few dull spells when clouds obscured the sun we found that the moth could be disturbed from the tops of the trees by using a long stick, but, as they came down, owing to their dark hindwings and the shade from the bushes, they were most difficult to see and the uneven ground and swamp didn't make things any easier. These particular sallows extended along a natural drainage ditch or gully extending for over half a mile and moths were taken all the way along this stretch of the common although most were netted over trees in bloom.

On the following Saturday (4th May), Col. Emmet was able to visit the place again and managed to augment his series.

Our experiences on these trips enabled us to realise how easy it is to overlook this species. For one thing it appears to frequent the wettest places where tall and often ancient sallows grow and such places are not as a rule visited even by collectors during the end of April, when it is so wet in the vicinity of the low ground.

Very few of my friends had ever taken this species and I wrote to several and asked them if they knew of recent (or old) records of this pretty species. The most recent record came from Mr. E. Sadler who took one in the New Forest, Hants, near Ringwood, on the 25th April 1962.

Mr. John Heath sent me a pair of moths which he took, with others, on the 30th April and 1st May 1958, at Holker Mosses, N. Lancs. He said he had failed to find the species present on visits in other years.

Mr. S. C. S. Brown, of Bournemouth, wrote that he took the moth in plenty on the 25th April 1935, by Holmesley Railway Station in the New Forest, flying around willow blossom.

Mr. J. D. Bradley said he took several specimens at Wimbledon Common, Surrey, at the end of April or early May 1939. This appears to be the first record this century of the occurrence of *cuprella* at Wimbledon, but it was the best-known locality for it in the previous century.

Mr. S. N. A. Jacobs has a specimen which he took at Limpsfield Chart, near Westerham, Kent, on the 13th May 1940. He also sent me a list of the specimens in Fassnidge's collection, all from Southampton: One on 8th May 1923; four on 13th April, and nine on 14th April 1946; and nine on 16th April 1947.

Mr. M. Chalmers-Hunt wrote that he had two specimens in his collection labelled W. H. Harwood, 1885, but without locality. Other records which he unearthed are as follows:—

"One specimen in the Bentleyan Collection. On the Continent this frequents sallows when in bloom" (1849, Stainton, *An Attempt at a Systematic Catalogue of the British Tineidae & Pterophoridae*, 10). ["This is the earliest positive record to the species in the British literature I can trace." (C.-H.)].

Newcastle on Tyne; Darlington (*Stainton Man.* 2: 300). 1857.

Rathowen, Co. Westmeath (Mrs. F. J. Battersby, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, for 1866, per Beirne, *A List of the Microlepidoptera of Ireland*: 133). Beirne (*loc. cit.*) says of the species as Irish: "I include this species as doubtful

until confirmation is available; although it is likely to occur here, the above record is not reliable."

Wimbledon Common, 1867, April 23 (two), 29 (about a dozen); also noted in 1866 (Tuely, *Entomologist*, **3**: 301).

"*Adela cuprella* is now more abundant and generally distributed over Wimbledon Common than I have seen it since 1866" (Tuely, *Entomologist*, **5**: 81, communication dated 21.iv.1870).

Wimbledon, "flying over shallows," April 23 (F. G. H. Whittle, *Entomologist*, **22**: 152). 1889.

Dartmoor, 1889 (Still, *Entomologist*, **23**: 14).

Dunham, Old Park (J. Chappell, *teste* Ellis & Mansbridge, *Lepidoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire*: 240).

At meeting of City of London Entomological Society, April 18, 1893, Mr. Gates exhibited "living examples of the local *Adela cuprella* from Wimbledon" (Battley and Simes, *Ent. Rec.*, **4**: 161).

[King's Lynn, Norfolk] E. A. Atmore, writing April 17, 1894, records having taken *Adela cuprella* in 1894 (Atmore, *Ent. Rec.*, **5**: 155).

King's Lynn and Horning; not rare (C. G. Barrett, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Norfolk* (1901): 158.

Rowardennan, Stirlingshire (1901, K. J. Morton, *teste* J. J. F. X. King, *Microlepidoptera in Fauna, Flora and Geology of the Clyde Area*).

Wimbledon and Barnes Commons (H. Goss and C. G. Barrett, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Surrey* (1902): 142.

Fairlight, Sussex (Bloomfield, *teste* H. Goss and W. H. B. Fletcher, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Sussex*: 200).

Loch Maree, Ross-shire, June 25, (1909) (Dorothy J. Jackson, *Ent. Rec.*, **22**: 131). ["I suspect wrong determination owing to late date."—C.-H.].

Willington, Derbyshire, May 13, 1918, H. C. Hayward, exhibited at Derbyshire Entomological Society, 2.xi.1918 (Hayward, *Lepidoptera of Derbyshire*: 47).

Glamorgan: "I was very pleased to take a specimen of the very local *Adela cuprella* flying above sallow at Llanishen on May 13, 1922 . . . ' (Norton, *Entomologist*, **57**: 15).

Caversham (W. Holland and A. H. Hamm, *teste* J. J. Walker and B. M. Hobby, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*: 83).

The following old records have been found by the author:—

Wimbledon Common, Surrey: 17 specimens taken on 13th April 1856.—*The Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer*, No. 3: 19 (1856).

Wimbledon Common: 17 specimens taken on 2nd May by C. Healy.—*E.W.I.*, No. 188: 43, 1860.

Wimbledon Common: C. Healy reported visiting the Common on 17th February 1861, for the purpose of searching for larval cases beneath the shallows. He found the "whole of the shallows had been cut down and a house built on the site!"—*E.W.I.*, No. 235: 5, 1861.

Upton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire: One taken on window, 11th April 1939.—*Entomologist*, **72**: 169.

In spite of *Adela cuprella* being such a local species it is widely distributed in Britain. Meyrick gives it as occurring as far north as Sutherland as well as in E. Ireland.

I can find no record of the larva having been found in this country. Stainton says in *The Natural History of the Tineina*, **13**: 144: "*Cuprella* is so partial to the blooming sallow bushes that there is little doubt the

female deposits her eggs in the blossoms of *Salix caprea*, *triandra* and *repens*. There is a wide field yet open here to the observant entomologist!" This was published in 1373 and it seems that the last sentence still holds good to-day. Several of our authors seem to repeat each other in saying the larvae inhabit a broad flat case of leaf fragments on fallen leaves of willow.

26 Finsen Road, London, S.E.5. 8.x.1968.

## More About Greek Butterflies, June 1968

By R. F. BRETHERTON, C.B., M.A., F.R.E.S.

My wife and I were so well pleased with our first visit to Greece in April, 1967, that we decided to repeat it in June this year, concentrating (apart from days in Athens at the beginning and end) on the Peloponnese and reaching some of the less well-known places. For these we were now better equipped, since my wife had spent the winter in acquiring the rudiments of the modern Greek language. One can get on without this, but it certainly added much to the interest and enjoyment of our holiday.

We reached Athens by a night flight from London in the small hours of Saturday, 15th June, and spent that day in visiting the National Museum, with its astonishing display of golden treasures from pre-historic Mycenae and the Temple of Hephaestus (often called the Theseion), both of which had been closed on our previous visit on Easter Monday last year. Early next morning we picked up our hired Volkswagen and set off on the 160-mile drive to Sparta, by the excellent road which passes Corinth, Argos and Tripolis. Our first lengthy stop was at the top of the pass between Argos and Achladocampos, where we ate our sandwiches surrounded by bare and desolate mountains. A few butterflies were flying in a dry gully, and I had my first sight of the Greek Marbled White, *Malanargia larissa* Hubn., which was accompanied by the Brimstones *Gonepteryx cleopatra* L. and *G. farinosa* Zell., *Pontia daplidice* L., *Colias crocea* Fourc., *Maniola jurtina* L. and many obviously migratory *Vanessa cardui* L. After passing the densely cultivated plain round Tripolis we diverged to look at the remains of the fine temple of Athena Alea at Tegea, where several of the Mediterranean Comma, *Polygonia egea* Cramer were seen. This might be called the "Ruins Comma": it enlivened almost every archaeological site we visited, probably because these give undisturbed footholds to its food-plant *Parietaria officinalis*. We also enjoyed the small local museum. It has for some time been the rule that finds of statuary, pottery, etc., from excavations must be housed locally, instead of being carried off to Athens or (still earlier), to the British Museum. Besides stimulating local interest, this makes it easier for the visitor to appreciate their setting, instead of being overwhelmed by the sheer mass of material, as we had been in the National Museum in Athens. Beyond Tegea the road climbs through fine hill country to the Pass of Kleiusura (about 840 m.), whence it drops steeply into Sparta. There had been heavy rain here earlier in the day, and vegetation was plentiful and green; a couple of short stops yielded more *M. larissa* and *G. farinosa* and also some *Pieris ergane*. We reached our hotel in Sparta about 5.30 p.m. and stayed four nights there. Though otherwise excellent